

Town of Grand Rapids
Comprehensive Planning Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2008

Meeting Place:

Grand Rapids Municipal Building , 2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

Present;

Planning Commission Members; Chairman Ray Weber, Thomas Arnold, Rodney Dorski, Eugene Zager, Jeanne Fehrman Town Board Planning Commission Representative, Zoning Administrator Lorelei Fuehrer, Lori Edwards, Dave Alft, Mike Speich and Bill Clendenning, Town Board in attendance.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Weber at 6:30 p.m.

Gary Popelka gave an overall County update of other townships and villages concerning their comprehensive planning. Gary believes that Grand Rapids is pretty much on our original schedule. Data entry and summary of survey is almost complete. The survey took much more time than originally planned. The land use element is not complete. Intergovernmental is in rough draft form. Some work left on Agricultural section.

*The Planning Commission reviewed the two meetings that have been cancelled into 2008 and are going to alter schedule to make up some of this meeting time. Starting at our next meeting of May 21, 2008, meetings will start at **6:00 p.m. and last till 9:00** till we get back on schedule. Planning Commission agreed.*

Commission reviewed survey results and appreciated the noted reference back to each question of the survey. Gary Popelka handed out a 10 page breakout of traffic problems and references from page 21-25. The survey will be added to final plan.

WWW.cowood.vvi.us/zoningitocal.asp has a lot of comprehensive planning information on this site. Town of Grand Rapids will have an update on this site in the future as with other Towns and Villages noted.

Special notes of survey;

- 32% of surveys were returned.
- Surveys were mailed to all property owners.
- Education section, reference was noted of growth of Mid-State and loss of Children's Choice School of the WI. Rapids Public School System and the need to be vigilant in the education needs of the Town of Grand Rapids.
- Manufacturing jobs held by residents responding to survey of 30+% matches the previous census. These jobs still hold an important part of the Town.
- Persons responding to the survey seemed to follow higher education and persons working in the education field.

Page 3, Commission noted some of the negative comments of the Commission but it was pointed out that 47% in several areas of the survey appreciated good, sound, futuristic land use planning.

- Compost site for Grand Rapids residents had a number of positive comments but not many willing to budget and spend tax money to build and maintain one.
- Water quality and quantity are one of the most important issues facing the Town. Between the City's five wells and Biron's one with another in talking stages the Town needs to be protective of their water.
- Water and Sewer was commented on by a good number of persons, but in other related questions, a majority did not have any interest in paying for it. In discussion of the Commission, it was noted that a pressure water system could be supplied to residents (if water became contaminated) at much lower cost with no sewer system. Also, some discussion of the Town to begin planning on developing its own municipal well system.
- Economic development land use is needed and wanted, but the Town also likes the present population of the Town.
- Comments of steel pole buildings, cell towers, lot sizes, extension of walking trails, industrial park, and many other issues.

The Commission with Gary Popelka's guidance generally agreed that each section or issue related to the survey, the Commission will pick out at least 5 issues/comments that are most notable or have best value for future reference or planning for the Town of Grand Rapids.

Gary Popelka handed out a complete printout of town road comments. Jeanne Fehrman noted that several issues have arose concerning redoing subdivision town roads and the need of meeting state standards, resident concern of right-a-way issues, development of ditches and tree plantings, and maintenance all are things that need to be worked out.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Speich and second by Thomas Arnold, motion carried at 8:38 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, May 19th and starts at 6:00 p.m Mike Speich, Secretary